

In the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A method for treating neuropathically-induced negative sensory phenomena in a patient comprising:

- a) identifying a patient with neuropathically-induced negative sensory phenomena;
- b) identifying a locus of the neuropathically-induced negative sensory phenomena; and
- c) applying an anesthetic topically to the skin of [[a]] ~~the~~ patient ~~suffering from~~ with neuropathic negative sensory phenomena at or near the locus of the negative sensory phenomena; whereby the neuropathically-induced negative sensory phenomena in the patient is treated.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said anesthetic is a benzoic acid derivative.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein said benzoic acid derivative is selected from the group consisting of benzocaine, procaine, tetracaine, chlorprocaine, propoxycaine, cocaine, proparacaine, mepivacaine, bupivacaine, phenocaine, dibucaine, etidocaine, lidocaine, prilocaine, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the benzoic acid derivative is lidocaine.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the lidocaine is contained in a patch.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein said patch contains between about 2% and about 10% lidocaine.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein said patch contains about 5% lidocaine.

8. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein method further comprises applying a cover over said anesthetic, said cover formed from a material selected from the group consisting of polyvinyl chloride, polyvinylidene chloride, polyethylene, synthetic rubber, woven polyester fabric, and non-woven polyester fabric.

9. (Currently Amended) A method for treating neuropathically-induced negative sensory phenomena in a patient by topical administration of an anesthetic, said method comprising:

- a) identifying a patient with neuropathically-induced negative sensory phenomena;
- b) identifying a locus of the neuropathically-induced negative sensory phenomena; and
- c) applying a non-woven polyester cloth including a physiologically acceptable adhesive, comprising from about 2 to 10% by weight of lidocaine, to the skin of a patient at or near the locus of

the negative sensory phenomena; whereby the neuropathically-induced negative sensory phenomena in the patient is treated.

10. (Original) A method according to claim 9, wherein said lidocaine is present in about 5% by weight.

11. (Currently Amended) A method for decreasing numbness of the skin of a patient comprising:

a) identifying a patient with numbness of the skin;

b) identifying a site of the numbness of the skin; and

c) topically applying a local anesthetic to said skin at, or near, [[a]] the site of said numbness;

whereby the numbness of the skin of the patient is decreased.